



NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Contact: Ron Trumbula
(817) 978-1111 ext. 140

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 23, 2010

Steve Drillette to Lead the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Brownsville, Texas

Steve Drillette has been appointed meteorologist-in-charge of the National Weather Service forecast office in Brownsville, Texas. Drillette replaces Nezette Rydell, who transferred to the forecast office in Denver.

"A meteorologist-in-charge is the front line officer carrying out the National Weather Service's highest calling of protecting lives while helping to mitigate the economic losses during hazardous events," said Bill Proenza, regional director of the U.S. National Weather Service Southern Region. "Steve Drillette, with his experience, leadership and communication skills, will continue to assure the best weather services for the residents of south Texas."

In his new position, Drillette will be responsible for ensuring the residents, and the marine community, receive timely and accurate weather warnings, forecasts and climate information. His responsibilities also include maintaining close working relationships with partners in the emergency management community and the media, and providing severe weather awareness, preparedness and safety education to the public.

Drillette launched his National Weather Service career as a meteorologist intern at the National Weather Service forecast Office in Amarillo, Texas in 1993. He also served as a service hydrologist in Lubbock (1995-1998) and as a senior forecaster (1998-1999) in the Midland, Texas office. He then returned to Amarillo where he was promoted to the position of warning coordination meteorologist. Prior to joining the National Weather Service, Drillette also worked as a science and mathematics teacher, basketball coach and broadcast meteorologist.

In addition to his duties with the National Weather Service, he served as a board member and president of the Amarillo Highland Park School District and as a board member of the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Drillette is also a member of the American Meteorological Society, the National Weather Association and the Texas Floodplain Management Association. He earned a bachelor's degree in meteorology from Texas A & M University in 1983.

The National Weather Service provides a network of 122 Weather Forecast Offices serving the nation with vital weather warnings, forecasts and climate services in air, land and sea.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

###